

Appln No. 10/035,806

Amdt date June 9, 2005

Reply to Office action of March 11, 2005


REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1 to 55 have been cancelled. Pending claims 56 to 65 stand rejected under 35 USC 103 as obvious from one or more combinations of the Walrand, Key, Cox, and Hughes references of record. Several clarifying amendments have been made in these claims. New claims 66 to 69 are presented for examination.

Claim 56 is independent and claims 57 to 69 depend thereon. The cited references taken alone or together fail to disclose a number of the steps of claim 56, including the step of "summing the mean delay values of the trunks in each path to produce a path delay".

Accordingly, reconsideration of amended claim 56, dependent claims 57 to 69, and allowance of this application are requested.

Respectfully submitted,
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